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Sexual Abuse Statistics

NOTE: Some links may no longer work.
Some websites may have moved or removed the referenced web pages.
Whenever possible, these links are located and updated.

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**Links to and statistics summarized from the
U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Statistics**

[Link to updated BJS statistics on Sex Offenders](#)

Sex Offenders & their Victims (1997)

[Link to updated BJS statistics on Sex Offenders](#)

- ◆ On a given day in 1994 there were approximately 234,000 offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault under the care, custody, or control of corrections agencies; nearly 60% of these sex offenders are under conditional supervision in the community.
- ◆ The median age of the victims of imprisoned sexual assaulters was less than 13 years old; the median age of rape victims was about 22 years.
- ◆ An estimated 24% of those serving time for rape and 19% of those serving time for sexual assault had been on probation or parole at the time of the offense for which they were in State prison in 1991.

- ◆ Offenders who had victimized a child were on average 5 years older than the violent offenders who had committed their crimes against adults.
- ◆ Nearly 25% of child victimizers were age 40 or older, but about 10% of the inmates with adult victims fell in that age range.
- ◆ Convicted rape and sexual assault offenders serving time in State prisons report that two-thirds of their victims were under the age of 18, and 58% of those--or nearly 4 in 10 imprisoned violent sex offenders--said their victims were aged 12 or younger.
- ◆ In 90% of the rapes of children less than 12 years old, the child knew the offender, according to police-recorded incident data.
- ◆ Among victims 18 to 29 years old, two-thirds had a prior relationship with the rapist.
- ◆ Four datasets (the FBI's UCR arrests, State felony court convictions, prison admissions, and the National Crime Victimization Survey) all point to a sex offender who is older than other violent offenders, generally in his early 30's, and more likely to be white than other violent offenders.

Bureau of Justice Statistics ~ 1996-2000 data.

Victims, offenders, and the criminal justice system.

The 2000 edition includes a new topical index to ease access to the 100+ tables in the collection (statistical tables in spreadsheet and PDF files).

Subjects include:

- ◆ Demography of victims,
- ◆ Victims and offenders,
- ◆ Geography, and
- ◆ The crime event.

DOJ/OVC Research and Statistics about Victims of Crimes.

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[Link to updated BJS statistics on Sex Offenders](#)

The BJS report, "Sex Offenses and Offenders," provides an overview of the incidence and prevalence of rape and sexual assault, the

characteristics of victims and perpetrators, and the response of the justice system to these crimes. The report draws on more than two dozen statistical programs maintained by BJS and the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the first national estimate of the size of the convicted sex offender population under the jurisdiction of federal, state and local correctional authorities.

Sixty Percent of Convicted Sex Offenders are on Parole or Probation

According to the 1997 Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Report, "on any given day in 1994 almost 60 percent of the 234,000 convicted sex offenders under the care, custody or control of corrections officials in the United States were on parole or probation."

The 1997 BJS report estimated 99,300 offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault were in local jails or state or federal prisons. An estimated 134,300 convicted offenders were under conditional supervision in the community, such as parole (following imprisonment) or probation.

According to the BJS report, for all offenders, the ratio of offenders on probation or parole supervision to offenders in jail or prison is almost 3 to 1. However, for sexual offenders, the ratio of those on conditional release to those incarcerated is 1.4 to 1.

Sex offenders constitute 4.7 percent of the almost 5 million offenders those in federal or state prisons, jails, on probation, or parole.

Sex offenders comprise:

- ◆ 1 percent of the federal prison population;
- ◆ 9.7 percent of the state prison population;
- ◆ 3.4 percent of jail inmates;
- ◆ 3.6 percent of offenders on probation; and
- ◆ 4 percent of the offenders on parole.

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Children and Teenagers are Victims

- ◆ Forty-four percent of rape victims were younger than 18 years old, according to data from police-recorded incidents of rape in three states. Two-thirds of state incarcerated violent sex offenders said their victims were younger than 18. An estimated 15 percent of imprisoned rapists said their victims were 12 years old or younger. An estimated

45 percent of those sentenced to prison for other sexual assaults (statutory rape, forcible sodomy and molestation) said their victims were 12 years old or younger.

◆ Most imprisoned sex offenders knew their victims. Among rapists, about 30 percent said their victims had been strangers. Of those convicted of other sexual assaults, less than 15 percent said the victims were people with whom they had no prior relationship.

◆ Of the rapes and sexual assaults reported by victims in the BJS survey, 60 percent took place in the victim's home or at the home of a friend, relative or neighbor.

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Recidivism rates for Sex Crimes Higher Among Sex Offenders

Offenders who served time for sexual assault were 7.5 times as likely as those convicted of other crimes to be rearrested for a new sexual assault. Approximately 8 percent of 2,214 rapists released from prisons in 11 states in 1983 were rearrested for a new rape within three years, compared to approximately 1 percent of released prisoners who served time for robbery or assault.

This 1997 BJS report (NCJ-163392) was written by statistician Lawrence A. Greenfeld. The complete embargoed 44-page document is available to the general public at the BJS's Internet home page, by clicking on "What's new at BJS."

Additional BJS materials may be obtained from the BJS fax-on-demand (301-251-5550), or by calling the BJS Clearinghouse (1-800-732-3277).

Information about the Justice Department's Victims of Crimes.

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**Links to and statistics summarized from the
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Bureau of Justice Statistics**

Link to updated BJS statistics on Sex Offenders

Violent Offenders and Their Victims (03/96)

The BJS Study of State Prison Inmates surveyed approximately

14,000 inmates who were incarcerated in 1991 or earlier.

The study used data from the 1991 BJS Survey of State Prison Inmates and the FBI's 1994 Supplementary Homicide Reports. The 1991 inmate survey was based on personal hour-long interviews with a nationally representative sample of 14,000 prisoners in about 300 State prisons. The report describes the sociodemographic data of offenders, the physical or sexual abuse they may have experienced, current offense, criminal history backgrounds, and use of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense. For child victims of adult offenders, the study includes their sociodemographic backgrounds, the victim-offender relationship, and the consequences to the victim, such as injuries and weapon use by the offender.

Addressing the mandate of the National Child Protection Act of 1993, which called for a study of offenders who committed crimes against children, this study found that:

- ◆ 1 in 5 violent State prisoners (about 65,000 offenders) reported a victim under age 18;
- ◆ Older violent inmates were substantially more likely than younger inmates to have victimized a child; and
- ◆ 8 out of 10 prisoners convicted of sexual assault had committed their crime against a victim under age 18.

Bureau of Justice Statistics ~ 1996-2000 data.
Victims, offenders, and the criminal justice system.

DOJ/OVC Research and Statistics about Victims of Crimes.

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**Links to and statistics summarized from the
U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Statistics**

Link to updated BJS statistics on Sex Offenders

**Two-Thirds of Sex Offenders in State Prisons
Victimized a Child**

Released March 3, 1996 (202/307-0784)

**For offenders imprisoned for violent crimes against victims
younger than 18 (1991):**

- ◆ Almost 10 percent were convicted of murder or manslaughter of a child;
- ◆ Fifteen percent were convicted of forcible rape;

- ◆ Fifty-seven percent were convicted of other types of sexual assault (statutory rape, lewd acts or forcible sodomy, etc.);
- ◆ Approximately 10 percent had beaten or threatened their young victims;
- ◆ About 30 percent reported attacks on more than one child;
- ◆ Children younger than 18 were the victims in almost 20 percent of the violent crimes; and
- ◆ More than half of the child victims were 12 or younger.

Inmate interviews in 277 prisons in 45 states, conducted during 1991, revealed:

- ◆ Of all prisoners convicted of rape or sexual assault, two-thirds victimized children;
- ◆ Three out of four child victims were female;
- ◆ Offenders typically preyed on children they knew, not strangers;
- ◆ Eighty-eight percent had a prior relationship with their victims;
- ◆ Prisoners convicted of attacking children were mostly male (97 percent);
- ◆ Almost 70 were percent white;
- ◆ Sixty-four percent were married or divorced;
- ◆ Child victimizers were generally five years older than those who victimized adults;
- ◆ About 22 percent of the child sex offenders reported having been sexually abused themselves during childhood; and
- ◆ Three out of four prisoners who victimized a child reported the crime took place in their own home or in the victim's home.

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**Family Members of Acquaintances
Commit Most Child Murders**

The report, "Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and their Victims" (NCJ-153258), by BJS staff statistician Lawrence A. Greenfeld, may be obtained from the BJS Clearinghouse, Box 179, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179. Telephone orders: 1-800/732-3277; Fax orders: 1-410-792-4358. To get a free fax copy of the report dial 301-251-5550. [Link to Office of Justice home page.](#)

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**Links to and statistics summarized from the
U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Statistics**

[Link to updated BJS statistics on Sex Offenders](#)

Half of Women Raped Were Younger than 18 (1992)

Released June 22, 1994 (202-307-0784)

According to the 1994 study of 11 states and Washington, D.C., half of the women who reported they had been raped during 1992 were under 18 years old, and 16 percent were younger than 12.

In separate study of three states in 1991, 96 percent of the female rape victims younger than 12 years old knew their attackers. Twenty percent were victimized by their fathers.

According to BJS, this was the first multi-state study that documents the high occurrence of child rape.

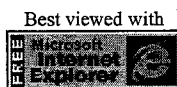
In a 1991 BJS survey of child rape state prisoners (the rape of girls under 12), 94 percent of the offenders said their victim was either a family member, friend, or acquaintance. This result was almost identical to that found in law enforcement data from three states in 1991.

Single copies of the BJS Crime Data Brief, "Child Rape Victims, 1992" (NCJ-147001), as well as other BJS statistical reports may be obtained from the BJS Clearinghouse, Box 179, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179. Telephone orders: 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders: 410-792-4358.

Bureau of Justice Statistics ~ 1996-2000 data.
Victims, offenders, and the criminal justice system.

DOJ/OVC Research and Statistics about Victims of Crimes.

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